these filler bodies, the possible explosion of fuel tank is prevented. The foreign collaboration was approved only in December, 1987. No report has so far been received about the implementation of the project or about the functioning of the device.

Working of C-DOT Technology

1505. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that C-DOT has not been able to complete its task within the schedule agreed upon;

(b) whether C-DOT claims to have developed technology for a different telephone exchange than the one originally scheduled;

(c) what is the total expenditure incurred on C-DOT since its formation;

(d) whether any complaints have been received from scientific community and others about the working of C-DOT; and

(e) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. C-DOT has developed small capacity Rural Automatic Exchange for use in villages and Private Automatic Branch Exchange for Urban applications.

(c) The total expenditure incurred by C-DOT on Electronic Switching System Project up to 31-3-1989 is Rs. 53.5 crores.

(d) and (e) Some press reports criticising the delay in completion of the project have appeared. Such delays are not unexpected in such R&D Projects.

Indigenous production of Paraxylene

1506. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the indigenous production of Paraxylene is likely to be increased in the near future;

(b) if so, what is the present production and likely increase projected;

(c) whether imports of Paraxylene will also be stopped; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (d) The production of Paraxylene in 1988 was around 30,000 tonnes. With the completion of projects under implementation, the production capacity for Paraxylene will increase to around 1,45,000 TPA. However, even thereafter, there will be gap between demand and domestic availability which shall have to be covered through imports.

Proposal of Tamil Nadu Petrochemical Products Limited

1507. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have cleared the proposal of Tamil Nadu Petrochemical Products Limited for manufacturing Linear Alkyl Benzen at Manali in Chingleput District;

(b) what is the total amount of investment involved in setting up of the project; and

(c) whether SPIC has contributed huge shares in setting up of this industry?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO)): (a) to (c) M/s. Tamilnadu Petro Products Ltd. are already in production for the manufacture of 60,000 tpa of linear Alkyl Benzine at Mahali in terms of an industrial licence issued to the party. This company was incorporated as a joint sector company by M/s. Tamilnadu Industrial Development Corporation Ltd. in association with M/s. Southern Petrochemical Industries Corporation Ltd. (SPIC). The share of SPIC in equity is 25 per cent.

The total investment involved in this project is about Rs. 180 crores.

Gas based Petrochemical Projects

1508. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the gas based petrochemical industries have been coming up very well with the international standards in technology in Maharashtra and other places; and

(b) if so, how many such projects have so far been set up in Maharashtra and Gujarat States?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) M/s Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Limited (IPCL) is setting up a mega gas cracker complex at Nagothane in Maharashtra at an estimated cost of Rs. 1390 crores. The gas cracker and the down stream plants are based on technologies of international standards.

(b) There is no gas cracker complex in Gujarat.

Power deficit in the Southern Region

1509. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO:
PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what would be the power deficit by 1990 in the Southern Region of the country;

(b) how much capacity of power is proposed to be generated for the Southern States in the Eighth Plan;

(c) whether the gap between the demand and supply of power would be narrowed by the end of the Eighth Plan; if so, to what extent;

(d) whether there is any proposal to create a gas grid from the West Coast to Madras on the lines of the HBJ grid; and

(e) if not, will Government actively consider such a proposal to achieve tangible results in the power sector in a short period and to prevent retardation of industrial growth in the Southern region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) The anticipated power shortage in the Southern Region during 1989-90 would be about 14.6%.

(b) The target for addition of generating capacity for the Eighth Plan has not so far been fixed However, an additional generating capacity of about 38,000 MW has been tentatively envisaged for commissioning during the plan period out of which 7242 MW is likely to be in the Southern Region.

(c) Although the power programme for the Eighth Plan has not so far been finalised, power deficit in the Southern Region at the end of the Eighth Plan, on the basis of an exercise carried out by the Central Electricity Authority, is anticipated to be 18.1%.

(d) and (e) There is no proposal to create a gas grid from West Coast to Madras. In the absence of adequate gas availability it is not feasible to consider such a proposal.